

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 04123 141823Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /059 W

----- 062016

P 141715Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1366

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 4123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER RESIGNATION SHOULD NOT AFFECT
DEFENSE POLICY

REF: OTTAWA 4114 (NOTAL)

1. CANADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER JAMES RICHARDSON
ANNOUNCED HIS RESIGNATION FROM CABINET ON OCTOBER 13.
HIS ACTION WAS PROMPTED ENTIRELY BY DOMESTIC CONSIDER-
TIONS. IT COULD HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES
FOR PM PIERRE TRUDEAU AND HIS LIBERAL PARTY GOVERN-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 04123 141823Z

MENT, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT

AFFECT ON CANADIAN DEFENSE POLICY.

2. RICHARDSON, IN REMARKABLY STRONG LETTER OF RESIGNATION, ASSAILED 1) GOC POLICY ON BILINGUALISM AND 2) PROPOSALS FOR AMENDING CANADIAN CONSTITUTION. SINCE BOTH ISSUES ARE EMOTIONAL AND MUCH DEBATED AND ARGUED, HIS DEPARTURE COULD ENFLAME ALREADY TENSE RACIAL SITUATION BETWEEN FRENCH AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIANS. IT ALSO DEALS SERIOUS BLOW TO LIBERAL FORTUNES IN THE PRAIRIES, WHERE LIBERAL PRESENCE IS LOW. WHILE TIMING OF HIS DEPARTURE WIDELY CRITICIZED, RICHARDSON POINTED OUT THAT CANADA MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARDS A DECISION ON BOTH ISSUES AND THAT IF HE WERE TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SPOKESMAN FOR FORCES OPPOSED TO CURRENT TRENDS, IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO QUIT NOW AND MOBILIZE FORCES BEFORE DECISIONS TAKEN.

3. MORE PROSAICALLY, DEPARTURE OF RICHARDSON FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY PROBABLY WILL NOT BE EXCESSIVELY LAMENTED BY MILITARY AND CIVILIAN STAFF. ALTHOUGH RECENT DEFENSE REASSESSMENT RESULTED IN INCREASED MILITARY SPENDING, HE WAS NEVER REGARDED BY HIS PERSONNEL AS STRONG AND ARTICULATE SPOKESMAN FOR MILITARY CAUSE. INCREASED BUDGET WAS MORE RESULT OF ECONOMIC PRESSURES FROM GERMANY AND OTHER NATO ALLIES THAN IT WAS RESULT OF EFFECTIVE ARGUMENTATION BY RICHARDSON. IN ANY EVENT, DEFENSE PERSONNEL SHOULD BE REASSURED BY STATEMENT MADE BY PM TRUDEAU IN HOUSE OF COMMONS OCTOBER 13 THAT DEPARTURE OF RICHARDSON WOULD NOT SIGNIFY ANY GENERAL CHANGE IN DEFENSE POLICY, NOR ANY REDUCTION OF GOC COMMITMENT TO LONG TERM DEFENSE BUDGET.

4. PENDING APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEFENSE MINISTER, BARNEY DANSON, MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN AFFAIRS, WILL SERVE AS ACTING MINISTER. THERE IS SPECULATION REGARDING RICHARDSON'S SUCCESSOR, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 04123 141823Z

BUT NO FIRM INFORMATION. JOSEPH GUAY, LIBERAL MP FROM ANITOBA AND A FRENCH CANADIAN TO BOOT, HAS BEEN MENTIONED, BUT SUCH APPOINTMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE VIEWED BY MANY AS OUTRAGEOUS SINCE GUAY HAS NO APPARENT SUBSTANTIVE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE JOB AND IS BEST KNOWN FOR POKER-PLAYING AND BACK-ROOM CONVIVIAL DRINKING SESSIONS. HIS APPOINTMENT WOULD CER-

TAINLY BE BLOW TO DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND
WOULD BE CLEAR INDICATION THAT, WHILE DEFENSE
POLICY WOULD NOT CHANGE, APPOINTMENT OF MAN IN
CHARGE PREDICATED ON ISSUE OF BI-LINGUALISM AND
GEOGRAPHY RATHER THAN ON PROBLEMS OF CANADIAN
DEFENSE.
ENDERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA04123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760386-0846
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761053/aaaabtmj.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 4114
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE MINISTER RESIGNATION SHOULD NOT AFFECT DEFENSE POLICY
TAGS: PINT, CA, (RICHARDSON, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006